

## Activity 3: Can We See Air?

**Objective:** Students will identify the characteristics of air.

**Duration:** 1 class period

**Materials:**

- ☐ 3 Clear containers or bottles with lids (plastic or glass)
- ☐ Water
- ☐ Dirt

**Vocabulary:**

- ☐ Tasteless
- ☐ Odorless
- ☐ Colorless
- ☐ Ventilation

**Focus questions:**

- ☐ Can we see air?
- ☐ What color is air?
- ☐ Can air take up space?

**Activity Procedures:**

This activity can be used before or after teaching the background material. If the activity is given before the lesson, you can evaluate the students' knowledge of air. If it is given after the lesson, it is an effective review of the lesson.

1. Before class, the first, second, and third containers should be filled with water, dirt, and air, respectively. The third container will appear empty to the students.
2. Number each container and place them in front of the class. There should be a #1, #2, and #3 container with the lid on tight, so that students can pick up the container without spilling the contents.
3. Explain that the class is going to have a contest and they need to guess how many containers have something inside them. Ask the students to pick up and study the containers.

4. Make three columns on the board labeled 1, 2, and 3. Record the students guesses on how many containers they think have something inside.
5. Ask the students about what is inside each of the containers and once they have given the correct number of containers (which would be 3), ask them if they have any ideas what could be in the third container.
6. Explain that the apparently empty container is actually filled with air and discuss what students know about characteristics of air.

**Follow-up Questions:**

- ☐ Can we see air?
- ☐ Can air take up space?
- ☐ How do we know that air is around us?